

**Minutes
Consumer Health
Regional Advisory Committee**

August 30, 2007

RAC members present:

Linda Gorman, Elizabeth (Beth) Ketterman, Mandy Meloy, Terri Ottosen, Janet Schneider, Christie Silbajoris

Absent RAC members: Nancy McKeehan, Georgia Lanford, Debbie Michaels, Rebecca Mitchell, Lance Watson, Cindy Westley

Welcome and Introductions

Terri Ottosen welcomed the group and asked everyone to re-introduce themselves as we had not met for quite some time. All present provided introductions, their background and/or interest in consumer health. Mandy introduced herself and spoke about her role as Community Outreach Coordinator and her background and interests.

Functions of the RAC

Terri communicated the duties of the Regional Advisory Committee for the benefit of new member Mandy as well as the committee as a whole. These duties include advising, guiding and offering opinions as to the general direction of the consumer health program, as well as keeping us apprised of what is going on in the region.

Veterans' Health Class

Terri Ottosen discussed the development of a new class on veterans' health resources. She received great feedback from RAC members and VA librarians that will be incorporated into the class. Some suggestions received were to add a referral to VA librarians from a central directory offered on the VA Library Network site and MyHealtheVet. Class participants should be encouraged to contact their local VA librarian but cautioned that VA libraries in some areas are not as strong and may be staffed by one person who may or may not be able to provide assistance. Also suggested was the idea of including a local VA librarian as co-teacher when the class is offered various places in the region. Resources to add were also discussed, including insurance information and health care benefits for veterans and their families.

Health Literacy Kits

Terri and Mandy discussed the Health Literacy Toolkits currently in development. This toolkit will be distributed at both the MAC and Southern Chapter meetings in October and November respectively. There is limited availability as the budget allowed production of 200 total. If there are any leftover, the plan is to distribute it to all of the Regional Advisory Committees in the RML. The kit contains an annotated bibliography,

MedlinePlus capability card and pen, “In Plain Language”, a DVD developed by Harvard, a CD of Beth Wescott’s Easy-to-Read class, a copy of MLA’s Health Literacy CD, a personal health record card and a brochure from AskMe3.org. Due to limited production, most of the materials will be available on the Southeastern Atlantic Region’s website: <http://nnlm.gov/sea/outreach/healthlitkit> in the near future.

Sexual Health Class

Mandy discussed her interest in developing a class on this topic and asked for feedback from the committee. She received some very good suggestions including offering the class in Spanish and English, offering low literacy level information, and to work directly with a representative from the population targeted. Another great idea was the use of peer-to-peer instruction.

Other Updates

Terri let the committee know about the distance education offerings and that the Beyond an Apple a Day class via Moodle was recently approved for 8 CE credits by MLA.

Mandy sent a letter to the AHECs in the region asking for input for her program area.

Linda Gorman relayed that she is working with her institution’s COO to reach into the faith-based institutions in the community. Terri mentioned a recent guide produced in the region that covers working with faith-based organizations. She will distribute it to all RAC members. Linda also mentioned the Care Giver Conference to be held in Baltimore on November 3rd.

Directions suggested for the future of the consumer health program included health literacy and Joint Commission Standards from the patient’s point of view.

Future Consumer Health Regional Advisory Committee meetings: We will meet in March or April 2008, with an Oversight meeting sometime after that. In year 3 of the contract period, beginning May 1, 2008, we will be planning some kind of educational offering in the area of consumer health, although the timing of all meetings are still uncertain.